

“When I first received the Yeager Scholarship, I was overjoyed and grateful that I could attend college without a financial burden. Now, as a rising senior, I realize that the most valuable part of this scholarship is the program. I have enjoyed and embraced the benefits of the Yeager Scholarship, but the bonds I have created are invaluable,” said Lexi Adkins, a member of the John and Betty Sue Kinzer Class of 2021.

The Proctorville, Ohio, native is a double major in health sciences and psychology, with minors in biology, chemistry, French and English, Marshall gained Lexi’s interest as she wanted to support a local school. After her graduation in the spring of 2021, she intends to pursue dental school. She hopes to provide time and resources to underserved communities with poor health outcomes.

“A lack of dental coverage, which proves inaccessible for marginalized communities, plagues America. There is a piercing discrepancy between socioeconomic status and proper dental care,” said Lexi. “I also want to focus on devising innovative ways to better support and treat patients with disabilities. One of my main goals as a dentist is to have an outreach program with a local domestic violence organization, since abuse gravely impacts oral health. Enhancing patients’ smiles can boost their self-worth and give them the confidence they need to address life challenges and follow their dreams.”

Lexi hopes to be a skilled dentist who inspires people who face difficulties or feel under-represented so that they can refuse to be stereotyped. While she loves Marshall’s “warm atmosphere and beautiful campus,” Lexi most appreciates President Gilbert’s efforts to ensure that Marshall is “inclusive, safe and welcoming.”

As the first Yeager Scholar who simultaneously cheered as a student-athlete, Lexi is thankful for opportunities like these that have made her college years unique. Her favorite opportunity was studying aboard at The University of Oxford in Oxford, England.



Fun Facts

Name: Lexi Adkins

Class of 2021

Hometown: Proctorville, Ohio

Major: Health Sciences and Psychology with minors in biology, chemistry, English and French

Favorite color: Blush

Textbooks or eBooks: I prefer textbooks over e-books. I find the physicality of textbooks more engaging, and I enjoy feeling my progress.

Favorite place in Huntington: Frostop

Favorite thing about Huntington: The community of people striving to make this place better for all. Their compassion, dedication and enthusiasm inspire me.

“It was a humbling experience to be welcomed into new communities, immersing myself in other cultures and forming friendships with people across the world. It molded me into a better global citizen. I became more flexible and more appreciative of each moment,” said Lexi, who values this experience more than any tangible object.

During her time at Marshall, Lexi has been involved with The Society of Black Scholars, LSAMP, Rotaract Club, the Pediatric Entertainment Program, the cheerleading team, Pre-Dental Club, empoWer, French Club and Hall Council. Her favorite place on campus is Old Main, as the Honors Study Lounge is housed there and it is where her favorite professor’s offices are located.

“Their unconditional support radiates into my adoration of Old Main,” Lexi said. Her greatest challenge as a student was learning to have peace with uncertainty. As one to over-analyze when plans are insecure, Lexi learned to trust herself and abilities, which has allowed her to embrace and enjoy opportunities and experiences.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, she struggled with managing emotions and the allocation of her energy, which made focusing on her coursework difficult. In her last year at Marshall, Lexi is determined to be “actively engaged in world crises and humanitarian cries for help.” She intends to continue uplifting her community and connect with them in new ways.

Thankful for alumni who support the next generation because of their genuine gratitude for all their alma mater has done in their lives, Lexi appreciates the overwhelming support she has received on her educational journey.

“I am grateful for my family and friends, the Yeager Program and Mr. Maurice Cooley,” said Lexi. “They have played a significant role in shaping me into the person, student and leader I am today.”